

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024.

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Those Present: Cllr. P. Hutt (Chairman); Cllr. H. Samuelson; Cllr. A. Jeffers; Cllr. M. Akers; Cllr. J. Russell; and Clerk Mrs D. Horswell.

Also present: Ward Cllr. D. Smith; Ward Cllr. S. Jupe; County Cllr. R. Thomas and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. G. King – health issues; Cllr. Hayden – previous engagement and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman checked with Cllr. Samuelson that he was happy to continue as Vice-Chairman which he was and duly signed the Acceptance of Office form which was counter-signed by the clerk. He also confirmed that he was happy to continue in his role of footpaths representative.

2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed: No changes in DPI's were declared.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 13th May 2024.

Cllr. Jeffers commented that in the planning report Agenda Item 5 sheet 2371 it was stated that the broken pavement outside 47 Blean Common had been repaired whereas KCC are only just in the process of repairing it now. This was noted.

Proposed by Cllr. Jeffers and Seconded by Cllr. Hutt.

The Minutes were approved and AGREED by all Members present and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Finance:

4.1 June Invoice Payments (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting).

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection June	£111.98 (Vat £18.66)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages May	£244.07
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary May	£854.72
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC May	£277.81

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DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband June	£87.54 (Vat £14.59)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire 10/6/24	£24.00
Bacs	Dean & Chapter of Canterbury	Document Storage	£30.00 (Vat £5.00)
Bacs	Meadow Grange Supply	two planters & plant up five planters	£1844.36 (Vat £307.39)

Total Paid Out: £3,486.47

Paid in:

CCC	Concurrent Funding Function 2024/2025	£5,630.00
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Bank Statement as at 31st May 2024 - Current Account £53,933.43

(This does not include all the outgoing transactions in this banking report).

Note: This includes CIL money from October 2023 of £2,091.16

Proposed by Cllr. Akers, Seconded by Cllr. Samuelson.

All Members present **APPROVED** and **AGREED** the bank payments.

4.2 Note: CFF 2024/2025 Funding Agreement signed by Chairman and Clerk.

The funding agreement had been signed by the Chairman and Clerk and submitted to CCC and the funding has now been received as shown in **Agenda Item 4.1 Finance Report.**

4.3 Accept & Approve Updated Financial Regulations.

The Updated Financial Regulations had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Samuelson, Seconded by Cllr. Akers.

All Members present **APPROVED** and **AGREED** the Updated Financial Regulations.

5. Planning: (Planning Report for discussion circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting)

Planning Applications:

24/00461 – Two-storey side extension – **29 School Lane** – **BPC has no objection to this application.**

24/00565 - Single-storey extension to West elevation of Church outbuilding together with enlargement of existing windows - **The Church Of Saint Cosmus Saint Damian - Blean Parish Council has no objection to this application provided that the proposed external cladding used for**

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the extension is timber similar to the existing building and as approved for the previous similar extension under 19/01922 (but not implemented).

Decisions by CCC:

23/00973 - Creation of new vehicle crossover - **47 Blean Common – GRANTED**

23/02220 - Single-storey rear extension following the demolition of existing garage - **34 School Lane – GRANTED**

CA/24/00240 & CA/24/00241 - Application for Listed Building Consent for external and internal alterations including single-storey rear extension - **Badgers Farmhouse , Badgers Close – REFUSED**

Appeals

Appeal Ref: APP/J2210/W/23/3332825

24 School Lane - Retrospective application for single-storey detached agricultural storage.

Application Ref: CA/23/00521

Appeal Ref: 3335774 - Butlers Court Farm Blean Common 6 detached dwellings consisting of 3 no. one and a half storey, 2 no. two and a half storey and 1 no. 2 storey dwelling together with formation of access and associated hardstanding following demolition of existing industrial buildings.

It has been reported to CCC Planning that **CA/24/00240 & CA/24/00241** have been published on the CCC website as one being refused and one granted. This is to be rectified by them. Also, there is no Officer's Report published or Decision Notice for Cllrs. to be able to discuss the reason for refusal.

There was a discussion on the latest Gladmans application with relation to:

CA/24/00234 - Variation of condition 21 (Foul Sewerage Disposal) of planning permission CA/15/02523/OUT for the (Outline application for the erection of up to 85 residential dwellings (including up to 30% affordable housing), structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space, surface water attenuation, vehicular access point from Blean Common and associated ancillary works. All matters reserved with the exception of the main site access.); to allow an

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alternative nutrient mitigation strategy to come forward at reserved matters stage - **Land At Blean Common**

There has been no new information from Southern Water or the Environment Agency leading to difficulties in commenting on this variation of condition.

BPC asked Ward Cllrs. to get website updates.

5.1 Draft Canterbury District Local Plan To 2040 - Land to North of University.

The response from BPC has been submitted to CCC and we now await the due process of the Draft Local Plan consultation.

6. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

6.1 County Cllr. Thomas report:

1. We're in the pre-election period so councils are more risk adverse during this time in announcing policy to avoid being seen to favour any political party. Residents, if they haven't already done so, need to register to vote. Deadline June 18th. <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/register-vote>

2. KCC Budget putting together its budget for 25/26. Continues to be a challenging time.

Government funding still below 2010 levels (see attached to these Minutes).

After the election, what next for KCC finances? For example will VAT on private school tuition means more school children in state schools for KCC to coordinate?

3. A key decision on replacement modules at Blean school has been published.

4. Canterbury City Council is due to release the transport modelling data to underpin the Local Plan. I suspect that the pre election period may delay its release.

5. KCC is recruiting a new Water Manager. This role will help coordinate the county's response to nutrient neutrality and other related issues.

6. I recently met with the Environment Agency to discuss a number of issues including environment crime. This follows shocking incidents such as Hoads Wood in Ashford. We plan to enhance strategic oversight of these issues.

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7. I recently met with the Department for Education to discuss the proposed special school on Church Street Playing Fields. It was helpful to hear about the issues they need to consider such as amount of space required - their remit is to not use more than is necessary as the school funding for maintenance will only be given to what's needed rather than how big the site is.

6.2 Ward Cllr. Jupe gave her report:

On the options for Blean School if the Draft Local Plan is accepted for which the final decision is a long way away.

She also reported that CCC have restructured their website following the cyber attack.

6.3 Having been asked by Cllr. Akers about the process for signing up for the payment of emptying green waste bins if residents have not got access to the internet Ward Cllr. Smith confirmed that this can be done by telephone.

7. Reports and Updates:

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

Bookings continue at a satisfactory state. The main focus now is the Village Fete which is scheduled for the last Saturday of June with approx.. 30 stalls, childrens games and tug of war, music, a bar, and a variety of food.

7.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

Cllr. Samuelson reported that he had walked all the footpaths and all they are all clear.

A resident raised the matter of the bridge on Footpath CB18 which has still not been cleared and replaced. Clerk to report again to P.R.O.W.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

No report.

7.5 Speedwatch Report: Cllr. Akers and Cllr. Russell.

Nothing to report.

7.6 Clerks Report:

The new bench has been put in place in the Nature Reserve, this has been supplied by a local resident. A decision is to be made by the PC about the moving of the bench by the pond to a more open location due to the anti-social behaviour occurring where it is sited now. Agenda item 9.1.

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The two new planters (one at Tyler Hill Road/ Blean Common junction and one opposite the Royal Oak) are now in place and have along with the three at the Memorial Area all been planted up by Meadow Grange for the summer.

Ken is re-varnishing the two benches on The Green.

Two matters of overgrown vegetation have been reported to KCC online, one at the entrance to Monkey Court which is obstructing the visibility driveways of the neighbouring properties and one at Westfield concerning overgrown bushes on the pathways.

All relevant AGAR financial documents for 2023/2024 have been sent to Mazars, the external auditors for examination, published on the BPC website and the Notice of Appointment of date for the exercise of public rights published on the BPC website and posted on the BPC noticeboard.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in the coming year unless for any reason they have to be changed. 8th July, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December, 10th February 2025, 10th March, 14th April and Annual Parish Council meeting on 12th May.

Cllr. Samuelson raised the matter of overgrown vegetation on the pavement from Blean School to Rough Common roundabout. This is the responsibility of the residents to keep vegetation cut back.

8. Matters raised by the Public:

No further matters were raised.

9. Matters to be discussed: (Any relevant papers circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting).

9.1 Moving of the Bench in the Nature Reserve.

The residents who live in the property immediately behind the bench have asked for it to be moved due to anti-social behaviour in the evenings. This has caused problems in the past. The bench is set into a concrete plinth although Ken said he can dismantle it. As there is a new bench supplied and installed by a resident in the centre of the Reserve the options are:

- Move the old bench to a different area of the Reserve (other side of the pond or in the far corner)
- Do away with the bench altogether.
- Use some of the CIL money to replace it with a recycled plastic one.

Cllrs. made the decision to move the bench to the other side of the pond.

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9.2 Decision on the style of the new benches in the recreation ground.

The Parish Council have Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money of £2,091.16 from CCC arising from the developments at 16 Chapel Lane and Brook Farm, Denstroude Lane. It had been agreed to use the money to replace some of the benches in the recreation ground.

A Link had been sent to Cllrs. to decide on the style which will be finalised at the July meeting.

9.3 Expenditure of s106 money.

This is different to the CIL money used for the above. CCC have notified BPC that they are holding sums of Section 106 Developer Contributions for open space used to improve open space facilities within the parish. £2,355.48 allocated for children's outdoor play area and £745.20 for semi-natural open space. Projects/upgrades need to be identified, quotes obtained and be at the stage of placing an order for works in order for the money to be released.

It was decided to write to Blean pre-school asking for ideas from the children for the play area and inform Hazel and Michael who volunteer in the Nature Reserve if they have ideas how the money could be spent in the Nature Reserve.

The matter of where to put the new basketball hoop was raised with suggestions of the original post or on the side of the kicking wall. Discussion was had on whether it will need a concrete surface in front of it.

It was noted that the bee-hives are no longer in the Nature Reserve.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. Akers asked whether he should make a start on the Autumn newsletter which Cllrs. agreed to.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 8th July 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.29pm.

These Minutes remain as draft minutes until approved by the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Date _____

Signature _____

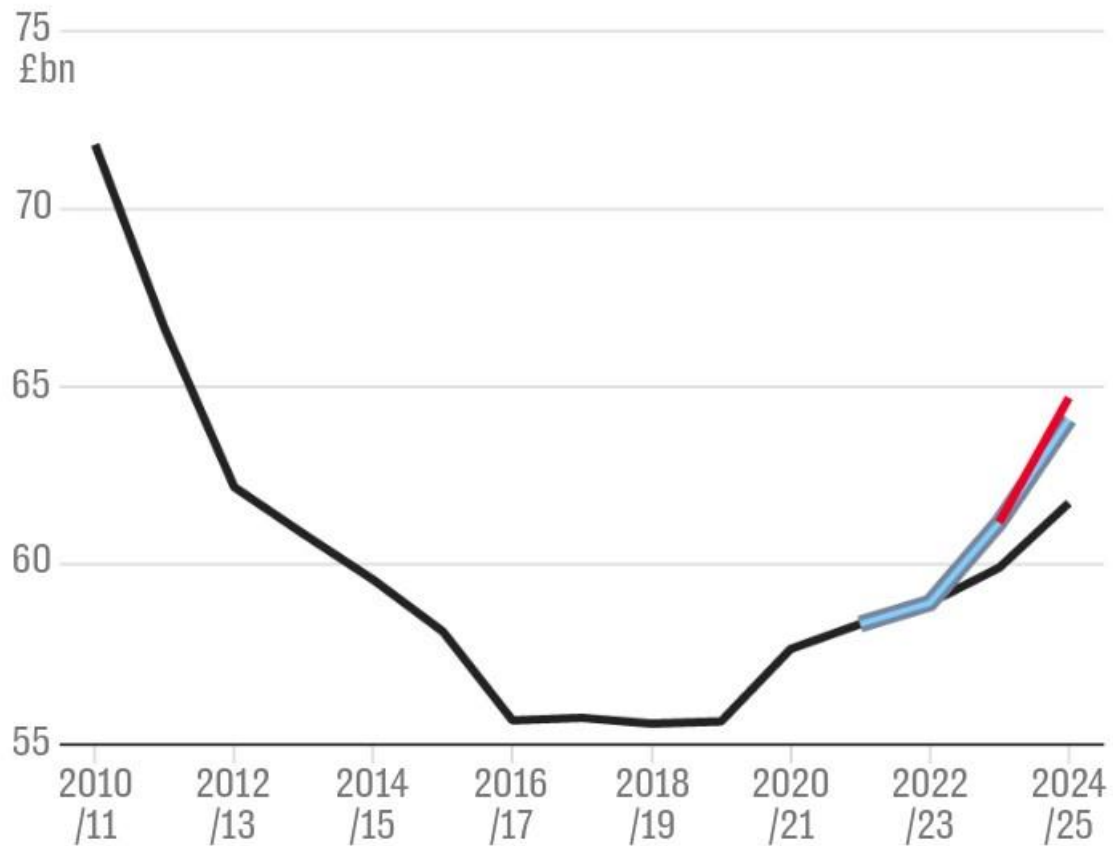
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Local authority budgets have been cut

Core spending power, actual and forecast

— Spending Review 2021 — Autumn Statement 2022
— Autumn Statement 2023 — January 2024 uplift



Institute for Government